

TREATMENT OF SCOTTISH HISTORY

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The view *is* based on Crawford's letters in the Leven and Melville papers ; other letters of his have been published since.¹ Judging from them he seems to have been an honest zealot^ as merciless as such men usually are, but faithful to his principles, and not without ability.

Behind Melville and Crawford was Carstairs 'or, as he signs himself, Carstares), an adviser who, as Macaulay says, 'deserved and possessed more influence than any of the ostensible ministers/ He goes on to say that Carstairs 'united great scholastic attainments with great aptitude for civil business, and the firm faith and ardent zeal of a martyr with the shrewdness and suppleness of a consummate politician. In courage and fidelity he resembled Burnet ; but he had, what Burnet wanted, judgment, self-command, and a singular power of keeping secrets/ ² Burnet barely mentions Carstairs, and was evidently jealous of his influence.³ That influence is difficult to define, but clearly attested both by the correspondence addressed to him and by his letters to other people.⁴ His policy was temperate and cautious : we see him inspiring the King, reconciling the quarrels of William's supporters, restraining the zeal of the fanatical, confirming the waverers, and securing the triumph of the moderate Presbyterianism which the majority of the Scottish people desired. ' Use all!

endeavours
he wrote to a friend* ' to keep people from
extravagances
upon the account of changes that are made/
The counsel

¹ Macaulay, IV, 1578 (xiii) ; Hist, MSS. Cornm., Hope
Johnstone MSS.

(iS97).

^JIV_f 1580 {xiii).

³ See Foxcroft, Supplement to Bumet's Own Time, p.
541.

⁴ See J. McCorznick's State Papers and Letters
Addressed to William
Carstairs (1774) ; see also the letters of Carstairs to
Crawford, i6Sg~qi, la
the Hope Johnstone MSS., those to Lord Polwarth In the
Marchmont MSS.
(Hist. MSS, Comm., Foorteenth Report, App. iii [1894]),
and those to the
Duke of Hamilton in the Hamilton MSS.